

Douglas P. DeMaster, Director, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 782-1355.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before August 17, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The application (File No. 481-1464), amendment request (Permit No. 782-1355), and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Shapiro or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit application and amendment to Permit No. 782-1355, issued on July 15, 1997 (62 FR 39826) are requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

Dr. Richardson (File No. 481-1464) requests authorization to study the feeding ecology of bowhead whales in the eastern Alaskan Beaufort Sea through aerial surveys and sampling of prey species.

Permit No. 782-1355 authorizes the permit holder to take Pacific Harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) in the following manner: Harass during census flights; capture, restrain, measure (weight length, girth), sample (flipper punch, vibrissa, blood, blubber/muscle biopsy, ultra sound, enema), radio tag, flipper tag, and release 500 animals; and incidentally harass up to 2000 during the conduct of these activities, and during collection of scat samples from haulouts. The permit holder requests authorization to: increase the number of seals instrumented with time-depth recorders, biopsy sampled, and harassed.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: July 7, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98-19122 Filed 7-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

TIME AND DATE: Wednesday, July 22, 1998, 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Room 420, East West Towers, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

STATUS: Open to the Public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

FY 2000 Budget Request

The Commission will consider issues related to the Commission's budget for fiscal year 2000.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-0709.

CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Sadye E. Dunn, Office of the Secretary, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20207 (301) 504-8000.

Dated: July 13, 1998.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-19267 Filed 7-15-98; 2:48 pm]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-M

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

TIME AND DATE: Monday, July 27, 1998, 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Room 410, East West Towers, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

STATUS: Closed to the Public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Compliance Status Report

The staff will brief the Commission on the status of various compliance matters.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-0709.

CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL

INFORMATION: Sadye E. Dunn, Office of the Secretary, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20207, (301) 504-0800.

Dated: July 14, 1998.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-19268 Filed 7-15-98; 2:48 pm]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

TRICARE Senior Demonstration of Military Managed Care

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs).

ACTION: Notice of demonstration project.

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise interested parties of a demonstration project in which the Department of Defense (DoD) will provide health care services to Medicare-eligible military retirees in a managed care program, called TRICARE Senior, and receive reimbursement for such care from the Medicare Trust Fund. The program is authorized by section 1896 of the Social Security Act, amended by section 4015 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-33). The statute authorizes DoD and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct at six sites during January 1998 through December 2000, a three-year demonstration under which dual-eligible beneficiaries will be

offered enrollment in a DoD-operated managed care plan, called TRICARE Senior Prime. The legislation also authorizes Medicare HMOs to make payments to DoD for care provided to HMO enrollees by military treatment facilities (MTFs) participating in the demonstration. This part of the demonstration, to be called Medicare Partners, will allow DoD to enter into contracts with Medicare HMOs to provide specialty and inpatient care to dual-eligible beneficiaries currently provided on a space-available basis. Additional legal authority pertinent to this demonstration project is 10 U.S.C. section 1092.

Under TRICARE Senior Prime, Medicare-eligible military retirees who enroll in the program will be assigned primary care managers (PCMs) at the MTF. Enrollees will be referred to specialty care providers at the MTF and to participating members of the existing TRICARE Prime network. TRICARE

Senior Prime enrollees will be afforded the same priority access to MTF care as military retiree and retiree family member enrollees in TRICARE Prime.

DoD will receive reimbursement from HCFA on a capitated basis at a rate which is 95 percent of the rate HCFA currently pays to Medicare-risk HMOs, less costs such as capital and graduate medical education, disproportionate share hospital payments, and some capital costs, which are already covered by DoD's annual appropriation. However, under the authorizing statute, DoD must meet its current level of effort for its Medicare-eligible beneficiaries before receiving payments from the Medicare Trust Fund. That is, DoD must continue to fund health care at a certain expenditure level for its Medicare-eligible population before it may be reimbursed by HCFA for care provided to TRICARE Senior Prime enrollees.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 required DoD and HHS to complete a

memorandum of agreement (MOA) specifying the operational requirements of the demonstration project. That MOA was completed on February 13, 1998, and is published below. Except as provided in the MOA, TRICARE Senior Prime will be implemented consistent with applicable provisions of the CHAMPUS/TRICARE regulation, particularly 32 CFR sections 199.17 and 199.18.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 15, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Sobel, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs/TRICARE Management Activity), telephone (703) 681-1742.

Dated: July 10, 1998.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

BILLING CODE 5000-04-P